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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***INDIVIDUAL SENTENCED IN CONNECTION WITH SCHEME
TO DEFRAUD INVESTORS***

SAVANNAH: Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that Mark Bowlin, was sentenced on August 11, 2004 in U.S. District Court in Waycross, Georgia, by Chief U.S. District Judge William T. Moore, Jr.

Bowlin had previously entered a guilty plea to an Information charging him with a conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and money laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371. Specifically, the charges related to his involvement in an investment fraud scheme in the Coffee County area and elsewhere between January 1998 and February 2000.

During the guilty plea hearing , the evidence showed that Bowlin and others devised a scheme to obtain investors in Universal Interiors, a corporation through which Mark Bowlin conducted a drywall installation business in Atlanta, Georgia. Potential investors were told by Mark Bowlin and others that they would receive up to a forty percent (40%) return on investments over short periods of time. To persuade potential investors to invest in Universal Interiors, Bowlin and others made false representations concerning Universal Interiors, including falsely representing that Universal Interiors had millions of dollars worth of projects on hold until it obtained additional start-up capital from investors and falsely stating that investments in Universal Interiors were used strictly to purchase materials and to pay labor with regard to a new project. In fact, the investors own funds

were used to pay interest payments back to the investors to create an illusion of profitability. Investor funds were also used for Bowlin's and others' own use and enjoyment, including the purchase of homes, a boat, cars and other expenses.

Bowlin was sentenced to thirty-two (32) months imprisonment and ordered to make full restitution to victims in the amount of \$2,720,421.42. Upon release from imprisonment, Bowlin will be on supervised release for three (3) years.

Wood stated that the sentencing was the culmination of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division. The Government was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Jim Durham of Savannah.

12-04